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## Carlsbad Caverns News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### Bat Flight Breakfast Moves to Saturday

In a break from tradition, staff at Carlsbad Caverns National Park decided to move the ever-popular Bat Flight Breakfast to Saturday, August 13. Since it began in the late 1950s, the breakfast has been held on the second Thursday in August. However, in an effort to encourage more participants and to coincide with the Perseid meteor shower, the event's coordinators decided to change the date of the event.

"We hope visitors will attend the Bat Flight program on Friday night, and then wake up extra early to enjoy the meteor shower, have a good breakfast and watch the bats fly home!" said Avelina Childress, Bat Flight Breakfast coordinator. "Five in the morning is early, but you'll get a chance to see a beautiful sunrise over the cave entrance."

The Bat Flight Breakfast gives visitors an opportunity to watch the estimated 300,000 Mexican free-tailed bats return to Carlsbad Cavern after a night of foraging for insects. Before entering the cavern in the morning, the bats circle several hundred feet overhead and then dive in clusters into the cave entrance. Unlike the shorter nighttime exodus out of the cave when the bats spiral up and leave the cave, the sunrise return to the cave normally spans several hours.

This year's breakfast will include cereal; ham, turkey and cheese croissants; yogurt and fruit; and juice, milk and coffee. Breakfast is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children age 12 and under. The cost includes free entrance to the self-guided portions of Carlsbad Cavern.

The annual breakfast is sponsored by the Carlsbad Caverns Activity Association and Cavern Supply Company in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Association.

For more information, call Avelina Childress at 505.785.3124 or Bridget Litten at 505.785.3024, or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/cave/](http://www.nps.gov/cave/).

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